

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02023 110824Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 SSM-03 ACDA-12
OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /095 W

-----079273 110834Z /14

O R 110745Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7544
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2023

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PLO LE MOPS SW NO
SUBJ: SWEDISH AND NORWEGIAN CONTINGENTS IN UNIFIL

REF: BEIRUT 1971

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SWEDISH FIRST SECRETARY SAYS NO
TIMETABLE HAS BEEN SET FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SWEDISH UNIFIL
CONTINGENT. NORWEGIAN FIRST SECRETARY DENIES THAT
NORWEGIANS ABANDONED ANY OF THEIR POSITIONS IN SOUTH
LEBANON EVEN TEMPORARILY. END SUMMARY.

2. SWEDISH FIRST SECRETARY FALK TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 10
THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ESTABLISHED NO TIMETABLE FOR
WITHDRAWAL OF SWEDISH CONTINGENT FROM LEBANON. FALK
REPEATED THAT CONTINGENT WOULD LEAVE WHEN UNIFIL HAD BEEN
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BROUGHT UP TO FULL STRENGTH (SEE BEIRUT 1719). HE
ALSO NOTED THAT HIS EMBASSY COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT
SWEDES AND PALESTINIANS HAD EXCHANGED FIRE ON APRIL 8.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF SAME DAY, NORWEGIAN
FIRST SECRETARY LONGVA COMPLAINED THAT ISRAELI PRESS
WAS DISTORTING FACTS ABOUT NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT IN

SOUTH LEBANON. THERE WAS NO TRUTH TO REPORTS THAT NORWEGIANS HAD ABANDONED KAWKABA, TIBNIN OR ANY OTHER OF THEIR POSITIONS EVEN TEMPORARILY, OR THAT NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT WAS PLANNING TO WITHDRAW. CONTINGENT WOULD STAY. MOREOVER, NORWAY HAD DECIDED ON APRIL 7 TO SEND 200 MORE TROOPS TO UNIFIL TO HELP MAN LOGISTICS SYSTEM. (FALK, HOWEVER, TOLD US ON APRIL 10 THAT NORWEGIAN COMMITMENT WAS UNCERTAIN; NORWEGIANS MIGHT NOT STAY LONGER THAN SWEDES.)

4. LONGVA SAID THAT ISRAELI PRESS HAD ALSO EXAGGERATED SEVERITY OF FIRING AROUND NORWEGIAN POSITIONS. PALESTINIANS HAD FIRED SMALL ARMS AND RIFLE GRENADES IN THE VICINITY OF NORWEGIAN POSITIONS FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES ON APRIL 6 AND 45 MINUTES ON APRIL 7. IN BOTH CASES, HOWEVER, PALESTINIANS WERE CLEARLY NOT TRYING TO HIT NORWEGIANS. YASIR ARAFAT ON APRIL 7 HAD SENT A REPRESENTATIVE FROM BEIRUT TO SOUTH LEBANON WHO HAD ORDERED THE PALESTINIANS TO STOP HARASSING THE NORWEGIANS. THERE HAD BEEN NO MORE INCIDENTS SINCE.

5. LONGVA NOTED THAT GENERAL ERSKINE HAD RECENTLY SENT ARAFAT A PERSONAL MESSAGE. PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT HAD SHOWN LONGVA THE MESSAGE AND HAD REMARKED THAT ARAFAT HAD BEEN DISMAYED BECAUSE THE MESSAGE HAD DEALT ONLY WITH ERSKINE'S PERSONAL SECURITY AND NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES.

6. IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH LOCAL NORWEGIAN COMMANDER ON APRIL 7, LONGVA SAID, PALESTINIANS HAD EXPLAINED THAT CAIRO ACCORDS GRANTED THEM RIGHT TO OCCUPY KAWKABA. NORWEGIAN COMMANDER HAD REPLIED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS TO ALLOW PALESTINIANS TO ENTER CITY. PARKER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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